

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 COA-02 IO-14 DLOS-06 SAJ-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4358

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MINISTER ATTACKS
NORWEGIANS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0298

1. FEBRUARY 19 ISSUE OF PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE PAPER THJODVILJINN
CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH MADE FEB 17 AT NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING
IN STOCKHOLM BY MINISTER MAGNUS KJARTANSSON. AFTER CLAIMING THAT
ICELAND HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY SUPPORTED BY NORDICS DURING
FISHERIES DISPUTE, KJARTANSSON IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID FOLLOWING
ON DEFENSE MATTERS:

QUOTE: WHEN ICELAND BECAME A REPUBLIC IN 1944 THERE WAS AN
AMERICAN ARMY IN THE COUNTRY AND IN FACT WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE
TO RID OURSELVES OF THIS ARMY. SINCE 1951 THERE HAS BEEN AN
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AMERICAN MILITARY BASE IN ICELAND. I THINK THAT EVERY SANE PERSON

CAN UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENTS AND THE FEELINGS OF THOSE WHO WANT TO LIVE ALONE AND FREE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. BUT THERE ARE OTHER ARGUMENTS AS WELL; ARGUMENTS OF SUPER POWERS AND MILITARY ALLIANCES THAT FOCUS ON THE BALANCE OF POWER AND ZONES OF INFLUENCE AND THE TECHNICAL VIEWS OF MILITARY EXPERTS. SUCH VIEWS ARE SUPPOSED TO OVERPOWER THE ANCIENT IDEALS OF SMALL NATIONS IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO SUPREME AUTHORITY AND INDEPENDENCE. THESE ARE NOW HEAVILY DEBATED IN ICELAND AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF EXPORTING THAT DEBATE BUT IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND FEELS THAT SCANT SUPPORT HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE OTHER SCANDINAVIAN NATIONS IN THIS IMPORTANT MATTER. IN THE CASE OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, IT HAS IN FACT BEEN THE OPPOSITE. IN SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY THAT STRONGLY URGED THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASE IN KEFLAVIK, AND RECENTLY A GROUP OF WELL KNOWN NORWEGIAN POLITICIANS CAME TO ICELAND - INVITED BY A NATO-OPERATED PRO-PAGANDA ORGANIZATION - FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND. I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO A PUBLIC DEBATE OF PROBLEMS THAT WE SCANDINAVIANS MAY HAVE BUT THE INITIATIVE THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND NORWEGIAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE TAKEN IS SUCH THAT MANY OF US THINK IT IS IMPROPER MEDDLING INTO ICELANDIC AFFAIRS. THE AGENTS OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE SHOWN US THEORIES OF MILITARY EXPERTS CONCERNING BALANCE OF POWER AND ZONES OF INFLUENCE BUT WHEN THOSE SAME THEORIES HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO NORWAY WITH DEMANDS TO PERMIT FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN NORWAY, THEY HAVE BEEN REJECTED AND CONSIDERED INCONGRUENT WITH THE INTERESTS AND INDEPENDENCE OF NORWAY. THEN HOW CAN NORWEGIAN LEADERS EXPECT ICELANDERS TO REGARD THESE MILITARY THEORISTS AS A KIND OF SUPREME COURT? IF NORWEGIAN LEADERS THINK THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE AN AMERICAN MILITARY BASE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER, WHY DON'T THEY OFFER NORWEGIAN LAND? WHY DON'T THEY OFFER TO HAVE THE MILITARY BASE WHICH IS NOW IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF REYKJAVIK TRANSPLANTED SOMEWHERE NEAR OSLO? COULD IT BE THAT THE LEADERS KNOW THAT THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT SUCH SCHEMES? WHY SHOULD WE ICELANDERS BE ASKED TO CARRY THIS BURDEN THAT REDUCES OUR INDEPENDENCE AND THREATENS OUR NATIONAL UNITY FOR EVER AND EVER? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SCANDINAVIAN UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP? END QUOTE.

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2. FEBRUARY 19 MORGUNBLADID REPORTED PRIMIN OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN AS HAVING SAID AT SAME MEETING THAT NORDIC COUNCIL WAS NOT PROPER PLACE FOR DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS AND HE DID NOT THINK NORWAY HAD IN ANY WAY INTERFERED IN ICELANDIC AFFAIRS. SDP CHAIRMAN GYLFI GISLASON SAID HE HOPED COUNCIL WOULD UNDERSTAND KJARTANSSON WAS NOT SPEAKING FOR ICELANDIC PUBLIC OR PARLIAMENT SINCE FOUR OUT OF FIVE PARTIES IN ICELAND WOULD DISAGREE WITH

HIS WORDS. FORMER NORWEGIAN FONMIN K.B. ANDERSON REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED KJARTANSSON'S WORDS AS "A VOICE FROM THE PAST, A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE, HARKING BACK TO THE OLD DAYS OF NORDIC RELATIONSHIPS." LARS KORVALD, FORMER NORWEGIAN PRIMIN, DENIED THERE HAD EVER BEEN ANY ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE AND THAT THE NOTE SENT BY NORWAY TO ICELAND LAST SEPTEMBER HAD BEEN MERELY TO INFORM GOI OF VIEWS WHICH NORWAY WAS SUBMITTING TO NATO COUNCIL. ONLY SUPPORT FOR KJARTANSSON CAME FROM FINN GUSTAVSON, NORWEGIAN SOCIALIST VOTERS ALLIANCE, WHO PRAISED SPEECH SAYING IT WAS "A BREATH OF FRESH AIR" IN MEETING. WHEN NORWEGIAN FONMIN FRYDENLUND WAS APPROACHED HERE BY PRESS, HE REFUSED ALL COMMENT. MARTIN

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